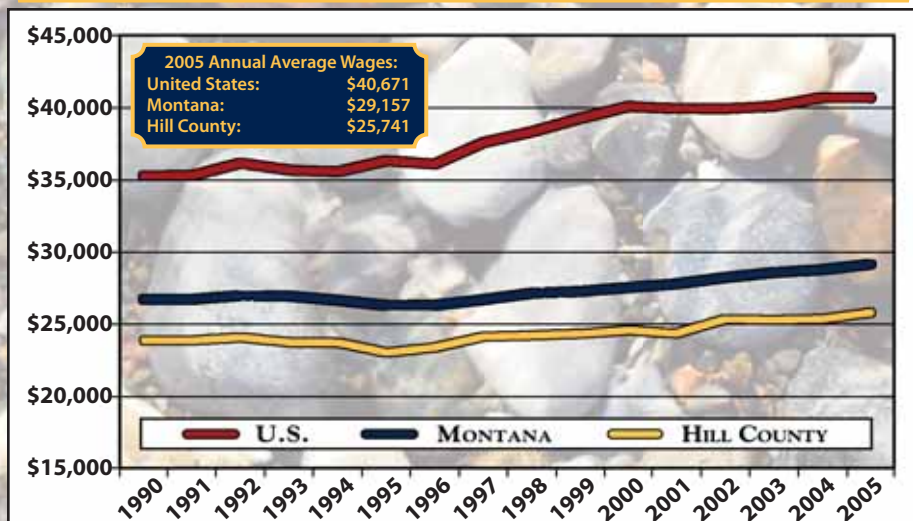


Annual Average Labor Force - Hill County

| Year | Civilian Labor Force | Employed | Unemployed | Unemployment Rate |
|------|----------------------|----------|------------|-------------------|
| 2005 | 8,021 | 7,676 | 345 | 4.3% |
| 2004 | 8,076 | 7,726 | 350 | 4.3% |
| 2003 | 7,915 | 7,583 | 332 | 4.2% |
| 2002 | 7,884 | 7,551 | 333 | 4.2% |
| 2001 | 7,792 | 7,449 | 343 | 4.4% |
| 2000 | 8,008 | 7,617 | 391 | 4.9% |

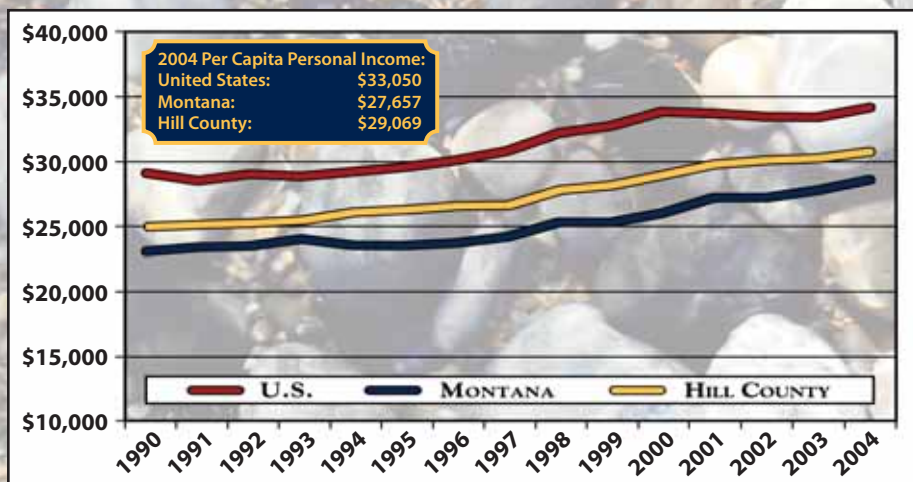
Source: Montana Department of Labor & Industry, Local Area Unemployment Statistics Program (LAUS)

Annual Average Wages, 1990 to 2005 (In 2005 Dollars)



Source: Montana Department of Labor & Industry, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages Program (QCEW)

Per Capita Personal Income, 1990 to 2004 (In 2005 Dollars)



Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Department of Commerce, Regional Economic Information System



Photo courtesy of Big Sky Fishing.com

Demographic & Economic Information for Hill County



RESEARCH & ANALYSIS BUREAU

Research & Analysis Bureau - Montana Department of Labor & Industry
 P.O. Box 1728 - Helena, MT 59624-1728 - Ph: (406) 444-2430
 or Toll-free: (800) 541-3904 - Fax: (406) 444-2638
 E-mail: webmasterrad@mt.gov - Website: www.ourfactyourfuture.org



Census and Economic Information Center - Montana Department of Commerce
 P.O. Box 200505 - Helena, MT 59620-0505 - Ph: (406) 841-2740 - Fax: (406) 841-2731
 E-mail: ceic@mt.gov - Website: www.ceic.mt.gov

HILL COUNTY

Hill County is Montana's eleventh most populous county, with an estimated 16,304 residents in 2005. Havre, the county seat, is the state's eighth largest city, with a population estimated at 9,390 in 2005.¹ Other cities and towns in Hill County include Fort Assinniboine, Hingham, and Simpson. Much of Rocky Boy's Indian Reservation lies within Hill County.

Hill County has historically depended upon agriculture, and while farming and ranching remain vital to the area's economy, the county has become more financially diverse, with hospital and health services, education, professional and retail business, manufacturing and railroads making significant contributions. Havre is the most populous city on Montana's Hi-Line, and serves as a wholesale and retail hub for communities within 150 miles.²

Educational Services is the number one industry subsector in Hill County, employing 1,008 people in 2005. Other significant subsectors include Retail Trade (with 936 employees), Health Care & Social Assistance (826), and Public Administration (726). Hill County also has the highest railroad employment in the state, with 518 employees in 2004. The fastest growing subsectors of Hill County's economy in 2005 included Utilities (up 82.4% from 2004), Administrative and Waste Services, (up 15.8%), and Mining (up 11.8%).³

¹U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates Program

²Havre History, "www.havremt.com"

³Montana Department of Labor and Industry, Research and Analysis Bureau, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) Program

Resources for Hill County

Chamber of Commerce

Havre Area Chamber of Commerce
130 Fifth Avenue
Havre, MT 59501
(406) 265-4383
E-mail: chamber@havremt.net
www.havremt.com

Economic Development

Bear Paw Development Corporation
48 Second Avenue
P. O. Box 170
Havre, MT 59501
Phone: (406) 265-9226
Toll Free: (888) 528-2327
Fax: (406) 265-5602
www.bearpaw.org

Job Service Workforce Center

Havre Job Service Workforce Center
160 First Avenue
Havre, MT 59501
Phone: (406) 265-5847
Toll Free: (866)-288-9642
Fax: (406) 265-1386
<http://wsd.dli.mt.gov/local/havre>

Newspaper

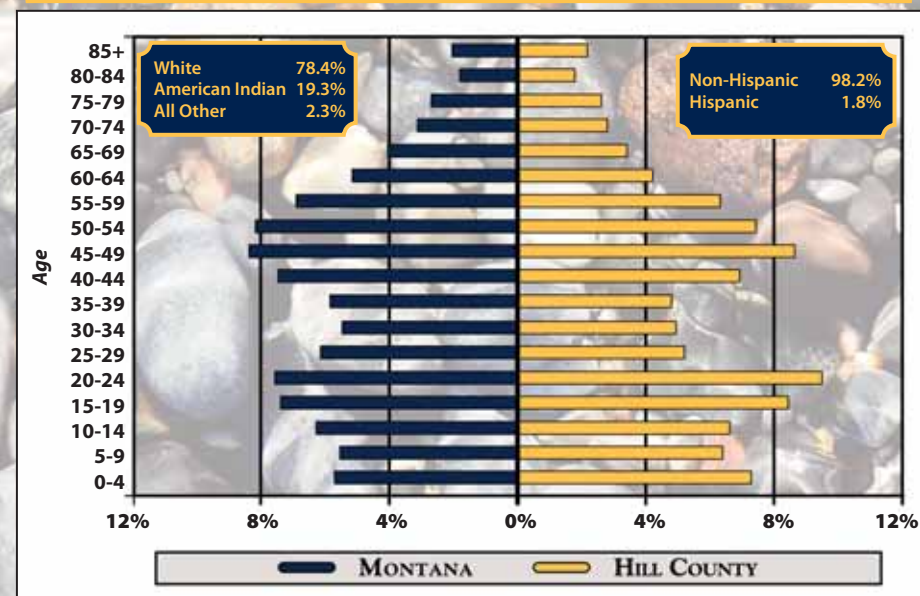
Havre Daily News
P. O. Box 431
Havre, MT 59501
Phone: (406) 265-6795
Toll Free: (800) 993-2459
Fax: (406) 265-6798
www.havredailynews.com

Population for Hill County & Related Areas

| | Total Population | | | | | |
|------------------------|------------------|-----------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| | Census | Estimates | | | | |
| Geography | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 |
| Montana | 902,195 | 906,098 | 910,395 | 917,885 | 926,920 | 935,670 |
| Hill County | 16,673 | 16,532 | 16,360 | 16,281 | 16,343 | 16,304 |
| Havre | 9,621 | 9,538 | 9,441 | 9,400 | 9,441 | 9,390 |
| Hingham | 157 | 155 | 154 | 153 | 153 | 152 |
| Balance of Hill County | 6,895 | 6,839 | 6,765 | 6,728 | 6,749 | 6,762 |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates Program

Distribution of Population by Age Montana and Hill County, 2005



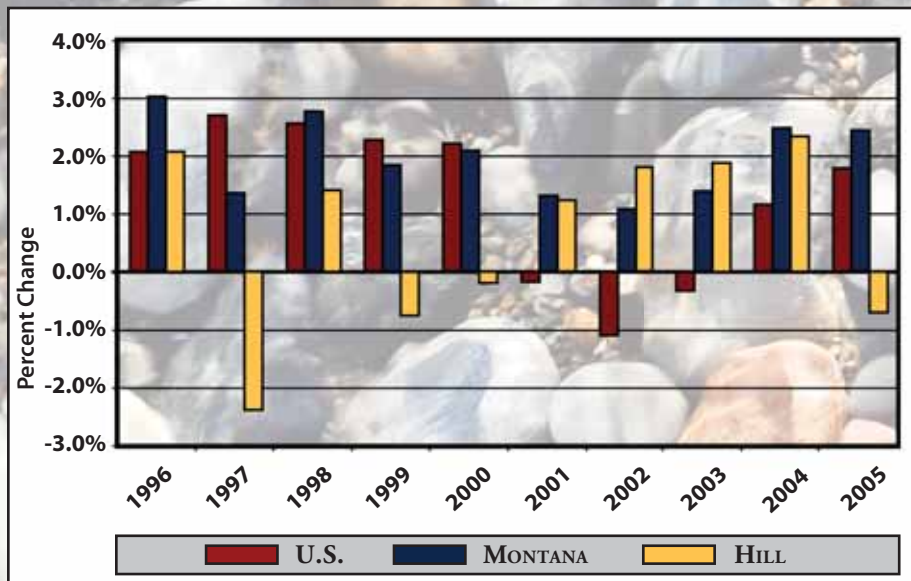
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2005 Population Estimates

Highest Level of Educational Attainment (Population 25 years and older)

| Educational Attainment | Hill County | Montana | U.S. |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|---------|-------|
| Less than High School Diploma | 13.2% | 12.8% | 19.6% |
| High School Diploma (or equivalent) | 32.1% | 31.3% | 28.6% |
| Some College | 25.3% | 25.6% | 21.0% |
| Associate Degree | 9.4% | 5.9% | 6.3% |
| Bachelor's Degree | 13.9% | 17.2% | 15.5% |
| Master's Degree | 4.2% | 4.6% | 5.9% |
| Professional Degree | 1.1% | 1.7% | 2.0% |
| Doctoral Degree | 0.8% | 0.9% | 1.0% |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000

Percent Change in Employment: 1996 to 2005 U.S., Montana, and Hill County



Source: Montana Department of Labor & Industry, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages Program (QCEW)

Top 20 Private Employers in Hill County (Based on 2nd Quarter 2006 Data - Listed in Alphabetical Order)

| Business Name | Size Class | Business Name | Size Class |
|----------------------------------|------------|----------------------------------|------------|
| 4 B'S Restaurant | 4 | Havre Day Activity Center | 5 |
| Albertsons | 5 | Herberger's | 5 |
| Bear Paw Credit Union | 4 | Hill County Electric Cooperative | 6 |
| Boys & Girls Club of the Hi-Line | 4 | Independence Bank | 5 |
| Cenex Supply | 4 | Kmart | 5 |
| Devon Energy | 4 | McDonalds | 4 |
| District 4 HRDC | 4 | Northern Montana Hospital | 8 |
| Duck Inn Tavern & Supper Club | 5 | Novo 1 (formerly Call Solutions) | 5 |
| Gary and Leo's IGA | 6 | T P Construction | 4 |
| Golden Triangle Equipment | 5 | Torgerson's Havre | 4 |

Employment Size Class Coding: Class 9 = 1000+ employees, Class 8 = 500 to 999 employees, Class 7 = 250 to 499 employees, Class 6 = 100 to 249 employees, Class 5 = 50 to 99 employees, Class 4 = 20 to 49 employees, Class 3 = 10 to 19 employees

Source: Montana Department of Labor & Industry, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages Program (QCEW) This list includes ONLY private industry employers subject to unemployment insurance. Railroads and government agencies are excluded.

Agricultural Statistics - Hill County

Farms

| | |
|---|-----------|
| Farms: (number) | 836 |
| Land in farms (acres) | 1,808,835 |
| Average size of farms (acres) | 2,164 |
| Farms by size: (number) | |
| Less than 1,000 acres | 389 |
| 1,000 acres or more | 447 |
| Farms by value of products sold and government payments received: (number) | |
| Less than \$100,000 | 694 |
| \$100,000 or more | 142 |
| Farms by type of organization: (number) | |
| Family, Individual, Partnership | 633 |
| Corporation, Cooperative, Trust | 203 |

Livestock Inventory and Crops Harvested

| | |
|---|---------|
| Livestock and Poultry Inventory (number) | |
| Cattle and calves | 22,210 |
| Hogs and pigs | (D) |
| Sheep and lambs | 851 |
| Horses and ponies | 1,361 |
| Bison | (D) |
| Chickens (layers and broilers) | (D) |
| Crops Harvested (acres) | |
| Corn for grain | 0 |
| Corn for silage or greenchop | 0 |
| Wheat for grain, All | 444,014 |
| Winter wheat for grain | 14,049 |
| Durum wheat for grain | 3,242 |
| Spring wheat for grain | 426,723 |
| Barley for grain | 17,983 |
| Oats for grain | 1,994 |
| Sunflower seed, All | 0 |
| Soybeans for beans | 0 |
| Hay, haylage, grass silage | 32,156 |

Operator Demographics

| | |
|---|------|
| Primary occupation: (number) | |
| Farming | 559 |
| Other | 277 |
| Place of residence: (number) | |
| On farm operated | 582 |
| Not on farm operated | 254 |
| Years on present farm: (number) | |
| Less than 10 years | 192 |
| 10 years or more | 644 |
| Age group: (number) | |
| Under 55 years | 507 |
| 55 years and over | 329 |
| Average age of operators: (number) | 53.1 |

Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Service, 2002
(D) - Not Disclosable

Employment by Industry - Annual Averages 2005 - Hill County

| Industry | Number of Establishments | Average Annual Employment | Annual Wages Per Job |
|--|--------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|
| TOTAL ALL INDUSTRIES | 563 | 6,381 | \$25,741 |
| TOTAL PRIVATE | 507 | 4,411 | \$23,063 |
| AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY, FISHING & HUNTING | 8 | 26 | \$20,933 |
| Crop production | 4 | 4 | \$15,743 |
| Animal production | 1 | * | * |
| Agriculture & forestry support | 3 | * | * |
| MINING | 10 | 85 | \$51,505 |
| Oil and gas extraction | 2 | * | * |
| Mining, except oil and gas | 1 | * | * |
| Support activities for mining | 7 | 25 | \$27,479 |
| UTILITIES | 7 | 31 | \$52,897 |
| CONSTRUCTION | 51 | 245 | \$26,673 |
| Construction of buildings | 16 | 43 | \$22,987 |
| Heavy and civil engineering construction | 6 | 42 | \$25,121 |
| Specialty trade contractors | 29 | 159 | \$28,082 |
| MANUFACTURING | 14 | 52 | \$24,284 |
| Food manufacturing | 2 | * | * |
| Beverage and tobacco product mfg | 1 | * | * |
| Apparel manufacturing | 1 | * | * |
| Printing and related support activities | 2 | * | * |
| Chemical manufacturing | 1 | * | * |
| Nonmetallic mineral product mfg | 1 | * | * |
| Fabricated metal product manufacturing | 4 | 13 | \$28,369 |
| Miscellaneous manufacturing | 2 | * | * |
| WHOLESALE TRADE | 22 | 153 | \$27,566 |
| Merchant wholesalers, durable goods | 7 | * | * |
| Merchant wholesalers, nondurable goods | 14 | 78 | \$25,031 |
| Electronic markets & agents and brokers | 1 | * | * |
| RETAIL TRADE | 88 | 936 | \$19,779 |
| Motor vehicle and parts dealers | 15 | 163 | \$28,684 |
| Furniture and home furnishings stores | 5 | 33 | \$24,175 |
| Electronics and appliance stores | 4 | 24 | \$13,679 |
| Building material & garden supply stores | 10 | 56 | \$21,548 |
| Food and beverage stores | 7 | 191 | \$19,407 |
| Health and personal care stores | 4 | * | * |
| Gasoline stations | 12 | 126 | \$18,136 |
| Clothing and clothing accessories stores | 8 | 28 | \$13,249 |
| Sporting good, hobby, book, music stores | 6 | 51 | \$15,593 |
| General merchandise stores | 6 | 214 | \$16,277 |
| Miscellaneous store retailers | 9 | 31 | \$15,083 |
| Nonstore retailers | 2 | * | * |

| Industry | Number of Establishments | Average Annual Employment | Annual Wages Per Job |
|--|--------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|
| TRANSPORTATION AND WAREHOUSING | 18 | 62 | \$26,931 |
| Air transportation | 1 | * | * |
| Truck transportation | 10 | 33 | \$24,289 |
| Transit and ground passenger transport | 2 | * | * |
| Support activities for transportation | 1 | * | * |
| Couriers and messengers | 4 | 23 | \$35,525 |
| INFORMATION | 8 | 214 | \$37,683 |
| Publishing industries, except Internet | 1 | * | * |
| Motion picture, sound recording industry | 1 | * | * |
| Broadcasting, except Internet | 2 | * | * |
| Telecommunications | 4 | * | * |
| FINANCE AND INSURANCE | 35 | 241 | \$32,837 |
| Credit intermediation & related activity | 11 | 175 | \$32,370 |
| Securities, comm. contracts, investments | 8 | 19 | \$57,660 |
| Insurance carriers & related activities | 17 | 47 | \$24,467 |
| REAL ESTATE AND RENTAL AND LEASING | 16 | 48 | \$20,674 |
| Real estate | 11 | 35 | \$17,005 |
| Rental and leasing services | 5 | 13 | \$30,412 |
| PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL SERVICES | 35 | 181 | \$35,261 |
| ADMINISTRATIVE AND WASTE SERVICES | 21 | 153 | \$16,648 |
| Administrative and support services | 19 | * | * |
| Waste management and remediation service | 2 | * | * |
| EDUCATIONAL SERVICES | 4 | 54 | \$16,078 |
| HEALTH CARE AND SOCIAL ASSISTANCE | 34 | 820 | \$29,579 |
| Ambulatory health care services | 20 | * | * |
| Hospitals | 1 | * | * |
| Social assistance | 13 | 124 | \$17,790 |
| ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT, AND RECREATION | 19 | 138 | \$10,705 |
| ACCOMMODATION AND FOOD SERVICES | 50 | 669 | \$9,153 |
| Accommodation | 6 | 96 | \$10,873 |
| Food services and drinking places | 44 | 572 | \$8,864 |
| OTHER SERVICES | 70 | 305 | \$14,386 |
| Repair and maintenance | 25 | 63 | \$19,092 |
| Personal and laundry services | 10 | 61 | \$14,323 |
| Membership associations & organizations | 25 | 166 | \$12,559 |
| Private households | 10 | 15 | \$15,137 |
| TOTAL GOVERNMENT | 56 | 1,971 | \$31,737 |
| Local Government | 24 | 1,424 | \$29,634 |
| State Government | 14 | 404 | \$28,966 |
| Federal Government | 18 | 143 | \$60,590 |

Source: Montana Department of Labor & Industry, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages Program (QCEW)
 * Data Not Disclosable

The QCEW program compiles data reported by all employers covered under Montana unemployment insurance.
 (Totals may not add due to nondisclosure of confidential industry data or to rounding.)